THE

DECLARATION

OF HIS

EXCELLENCIE

The Lord Generall

FAIRFAX,

AND

His Generall Councell of Officers.

SHEWING

The Grounds and Reasons of the Armies advance towards the City of LONDON, and their Resolution and Propoſals thereupon.

By the Appointment of His Excellency the Lord Fairfax, *Lord Generall, and His Generall Councell of Officers, held at* Windſor, *Nov.* 30. 1648.

Signed, JOHN RUSHWORTH, Secr.

ALSO,

His Excellencies Letter and Summons to the Right Honorable the Lord Major, Read and debated at the Councell Table in Guild Hall, *Friday Decemb.* 1. 1648.

Signed, T. FAIRFAX.

Whereunto is annexed,

The Anſwer and Reſolution of the Lord Major, Aldermen, and Common-councell of the City of London *thereupon,*

LONDON, Printed for GEORGE HORTON, 1648.

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JUNE 1, 1918

THE DECLARATION OF

His Excellency the Lord Gen. *Fairfax*, and his General Councel of Officers, shewing the grounds of the Armies advance towards the City of *London*.

BEing full of sad apprehensions concerning the danger and evill of the Treaty with the *King*, and of any accommodation with him, or restitution of him thereupon, We did by our late Remonstrance upon the Reasons and Grounds therein expressed, make our application thereby unto the present House of Commons, that the dangerous evill of that way might be avoided, and the peace of the *Kingdome* setled upon more righteous, safe and hopefull grounds, *viz.* a more equall dispensing of Justice and Mercy in relation to things done or suffered in the late warr, and the establishing of the future Government of this *King-*

dom upon a safe succession and equall Constitution of Parliaments, and that (for the ending of present, and avoiding of future Differences) to be Ratified by an Agreement and Subscription of the people thereunto. Which things we pressed in the way of Reason and Perswasion onely, that they might be duely and timely considered. But to our griefe we find, in stead of any Satisfaction or a reasonable answer thereto, they are wholly rejected, without any consideration of what ever Reason or Justice might be in the things set forth or propounded therein; for what lesse can be understood, when the things propounded were mainly for the avoidance of evils appearing in the Treaty with the King: And seeing the prevailing part of those, to whom we did apply, to have as it were their eyes wilfully shut, and eares stopt, against any thing of Light or Reason offered to them, we find no place left for our former charitable or hopefull apprehensions, concerning their errour in such evill wayes; but remaining fully assured of the danger and destructivenesse thereof, as to all those publique ends for which they were intrusted, and also of the just advantage and necessity which lie in the things we have propounded and insist on, we now see nothing left, to which their engaging and persisting in such wayes, and rejection of these better things propounded, can rationally be attributed lesse then a treacherous or corrupt neglect of, and Apostacy from the Publique Trust reposed in them; although we could wish from our soules, we might yet find the contrary.

Therefore it is our hearts desire, and shall be our endeavour, that so much, both of the matter and form of the present Parliamentory Authority may be preserved, as can be safe, or will be usefull to these ends, untill a just and full Constitution thereof, both for mat-

matter and form (ſuitable to the publique ends, it ſerves for) can be introduced.

And therefore firſt, it ſhould be great rejoycing (if God ſaw it good) that the majority of the preſent Houſe of Commons were become ſenſible of the evil and diſtructiveneſſe of their late way, and would reſolvedly and vigorouſly apply themſelves to the ſpeedy execution of juſtice, with the righting and caſing of the oppreſſed people, and to a juſt ſettlement of the Kingdome upon ſuch foundations as have been propounded by us, and others for that purpoſe, and would for the ſpeedier and ſurer proſecution of theſe things exclude from Communication in their Councels, all ſuch corrupt and Apoſtatized Members as have appeared hitherto, but to obſtruct and hinder ſuch matter of Juſtice, Safety, and publique intereſt, and to pervert their Councels a contrary way, and have therein ſo ſhamefully both falſified, and forfeited their Truſt.

But however if God ſhal not ſee it good (to vouchſafe that mercy to them and the Kingdome) we ſhall ſecondly deſire, That ſo many of them as God hath kept upright, and ſhal touch with a juſt ſence of thoſe things, would by proteſtation or otherwiſe, acquit themſelves from ſuch breach of Truſt, and approve their faithfulneſſe, by withdrawing from thoſe that perſiſt in the guilt therof, & take ſuch a poſture, whereby they may ſpeedily & effectually proſecute thoſe neceſſary and publique ends, without ſuch interruptions, Diverſions, or depravations of their Councels from the reſt, to their endleſſe trouble, and hazard of the Kingdom as formerly, and for ſo many of them, whoſe hearts God ſhall ſtir up thus to do.

We ſhall therein, in this caſe of extremity, looke upon them as perſons having materially the chief Truſt of the Kingdom remaining in them, and though not a formall ſtanding power to be continued in them, or drawn into ordinary Preſidents; yet the beſt and moſt rightfull that can be had, as the preſent ſtate and exigence of affairs now ſtand; And we ſhal accordingly owne them, adhere to them, and be guided by them in their faithful proſecution of that truſt, in order vnto, and until the introducing of a more full and formal power in a juſt Repreſentative to be ſpeedy endeavoured.

Now yet further to take away all jealouſies in relation to our ſelves, which might withhold or diſcourſe any honeſt members from this courage, as we have the witneſſe of God in our hearts, that in theſe proceedings we do not ſeek, but even reſolve we wil not take advantages to our ſelves, either in point of profit or power; and that if God did open to us a way, wherin with honeſty and faithfulneſſe to the publique Intereſt, & good people ingaged for us, we might preſently be diſcharged, ſo as we might not in our preſent Employments *look* on, and be acceſſary to, yea ſupporters of the Parliament, in the preſent corrupt, oppreſſive and deſtructive proceedings, wee ſhould with rejoycing, and without more ado embrace ſuch a diſcharge, rather then interpoſe in theſe things to our owne vaſt trouble and hazzard; ſo if we could but obtain a rational aſſurance for the effectuall proſecuting of theſe things, we ſhall give any proportionable aſſurance on our parts, concerning our laying down of armes, when, and as we ſhould be required.

But for the preſent as the caſe ſtands, we apprehend our

our ſelves oblieged in duty to God, this Kingdome, and good men therein, to approve our utmoſt abilities in all honeſt wayes, for the avoiding of theſe great evils which we have remonſtrated, and for proſecution of the good things we have propounded; and alſo that ſuch perſons who were the inviters of the late invaſion from Scotland, the Inſtigaters and incouragers of the late inſurrections within this Kingdome, and (thoſe forcible wayes failing) have ſtill purſued theſe wicked deſignes by treacherous and corrupt counſels, may be brought to publike juſtice, according to their ſeverall demerits. For all theſe ends we are now drawing up with the Army to London, there to follow providence as God ſhall clear our way.

By the Appointment of His Excellency, the Lord Gen. Fairfax, *and his Generall Councell of Officers held at* Windſor, *Nov.* 30. 1648.

Signed, John Ruſhworth *Secr.*

A Letter ſent from the Lord Gen. Fairfax, *to the Lord Major, Aldermen, and Common-councell of the City of* London.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

BEing upon an immediate advance with the Army towards London, we thought good hereby to give you notice thereof. For the ground and neceſſity leading us hereunto, we refer you to our late Remonſtrance, and to our later Declaration concerning the ſame. We have onely this further

ther to add, That as we are far from the least thought of plunder or other wrong to your City, or any the places adjoyning which we hope your former experience of us will give you cause enough to credit us: So for the better prevention of any disorder in the Souldiery, or of any abuse or inconvenience to the Inhabitants in the quartering of the Souldiery at private houses, we earnestly desire, That you would take a present course for the supply of Money to pay these forces, while we shall be necessitated to stay there, upon which we assure you, we shall so dispose of them into great and void houses about the City, as much as may be possible, as that few or none of the Inhabitants shall be troubled with quartering of any soldiers at all: And for this purpose, we desire that 40000. li. may be forthwith provided upon the security of your arrears, to be ready to be paid out to the Forces to morrow night if possible: And we shall be ready to receive from you any intimations for the further prevention of hurt or inconveniences to the City in this busineſse, I remain

Your most assured friend and servant,

Windsor 30. Nov. 1648. T. FAIRFAX.

Guildhall, London, Decem. 1. 1648.

The Lord Major, Aldermen, and Common-councel, having seriously debated the particulars specified in the fore-going Letter, upon mature deliberation thereon, finds them to be of great consequence in reference to the City of *London*, and therefore for the safety and preservation thereof, resolved to satisfie his Excellencies desires touching the sum of 40000. *li.* but withall desire, that the Army may be remanded back, and that the City may be free from quartering of the Soldery.

FINIS.